

Monoclonal Antibody Therapy (mAb) for Treating COVID-19



Monoclonal Antibody Therapy, or mAb for short, is a treatment for COVID-19. It is not a cure for COVID-19, but it may lessen your symptoms and help keep you out of the hospital.

When you are sick, your body makes antibodies on its own to fight the illness. Monoclonal antibodies are made in a lab. They act like our own antibodies. They are the extra help your body needs to fight the COVID-19 virus.

In November 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for [Casirivimab/imdevimab](#) and [Bamlanivimab](#) to treat eligible COVID-19 patients. Since then, this drug has helped thousands of Marylanders. The FDA allows EUA during a crisis, when clinical trials show great hope, and there is no other treatment.

If you test positive for COVID-19, ask your health care provider about this treatment right away.

Who Can Get Monoclonal Antibody Treatment?

You may be eligible for treatment if you:

- Test positive for COVID-19
- Have mild to moderate symptoms that started in the last 10 days
- Are at high risk
- Are 12 years of age or older

What Are Mild To Moderate Symptoms?

Mild to moderate symptoms may be a fever, cough, sore throat, malaise or not feeling well, headache, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste and smell, and mild shortness of breath.

If you are in the hospital sick with COVID-19, this treatment will not work for you.

How To Get Treatment:



Step 1

Test positive for COVID-19 with symptoms starting in the last 10 days



Step 2

Get a referral from your health care provider



Step 3

Have your provider refer you to an infusion center

Who Is High Risk?

Being high risk means that if you get COVID-19, you could get very sick, end up in the hospital, or even die. Right now, you can only get this treatment if you are at high risk. If you are not sure if this is you, ask your health care provider.

If you are 65 and older, you are high risk. You do not need to have any other health problems.

No matter how old you are, you are high risk if you have **one** of these:

- Chronic kidney disease
- Diabetes
- Body mass index over 35
- Immunosuppressive disease
- Currently receiving immunosuppressive treatment



If you are 55 to 64 years old, you are high risk if you have **one** of these:

- Cardiovascular disease
- Hypertension
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or other chronic respiratory disease



If you are 12 to 17 years old, you are also high risk if you have **one** of these:

- High body mass index
- Sickle cell disease
- Congenital or acquired heart disease
- Neurodevelopmental disorders
- A medical-related technological dependence
- Asthma or other chronic respiratory disease (medicated daily)



What Should I Expect?

You will get the treatment by an IV. Treatment can take up to an hour. Medical staff will then watch over you for another hour. It is rare, but you could have an allergic reaction or other side effect.

Right now, there is no cost to you for the drug. There may be some cost for giving you the treatment. Your insurance may pay these fees.

For FAQs on monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19, visit covidLINK.maryland.gov